

Manley Shakes Busta — Jamaica Locals Poll

KINGSTON.—Municipal and Parish elections have given the Peoples National Party a sweeping victory over its opponents, the Jamaica Labour Party and the newly formed Peoples Freedom Movement.

This clean sweep in the local elections puts the PNP in complete control of Central and Local Government. Nothing now lies in the way of the present Government carrying out its long desired Plan for Progress.

Chief Minister and Leader of the PNP, Mr. Norman Manley, welcomes this victory as a vote of confidence and a challenge to his party to continue its work for the country. Further he stated, "It is much more than that, it is a challenging mandate to Government to continue work with everything we have and can give to the development of our country. I accept the challenge with no spirit of pride but with renewed determination to do our best."

The old reactionary Labour Government led by Bustamante for 12 years is now buried. 'God rest the dead'. Busta and his corrupt stooges have fallen on the sharp edges of their own swords, which they had used against the people for perpetuating and defending illiteracy, unemployment, poverty, grafts, suppression of civil liberties, colonialism, as against low wages and standard of living of the workers.

The Peoples National Party, after 17 years of continued on page 5



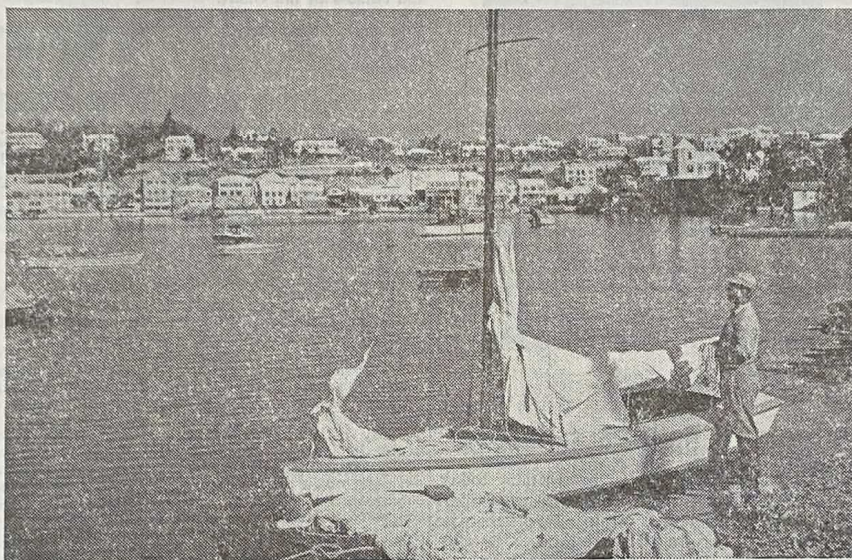
June

1956

Trinidad Bill—bans choice of reading

from John La Rose

Picturesque Hamilton Harbour



Bermuda News Bureau Photo

THE BERMUDA STORY

HAMILTON, March.—Bermuda is frequently looked upon as being outside the British West Indies. Many of us however regard our territory as a part of the West Indies. In support of this, we had a delegation attending the 1947 Conference of the Caribbean Labour Congress.

On March 21st, in tropical threatening weather, several hundred persons attended at Alexandrina Hall, to witness the founding meeting of the BERMUDA LABOUR PARTY. Under the chairmanship of Mr. H. H. Brown the meeting had been advertised in press and radio. Mr. Walter St. George Brown, formerly a member of the Legislative Council of St. Lucia, was elected provisional Chairman.

RUGGED HISTORY

Bermudians have a rugged history. Today the people enjoy very little of what we all understand by democracy—even on a colonial basis! To vote, a person over 21 years of age, must own at least £60 of freehold property. More ambitious men who want to stand as candidates for election must own freehold property to the minimum value of £240. This small group of islands has a population of 50,000 people, two-third of

which are of African descent and mixed bloods and are condemned to the most menial occupations. Notwithstanding nominal British rule and even Colonial Office legislation, the English note currency is illegal and the American DOLLAR generally accepted. With the American financial priority, goes the American way of life, jim-crow, the cult of race superiority, etc.

The newly formed Labour Party now takes its place in the Caribbean progressive movement. Among the immediate proposals outlined in the press statement released by Mr. WALTON St. G. BROWN since, are demands for:—

- Universal Adult Suffrage.
- Modernisation of the Trade Union laws, to remove the worse aspects still deriving from Britain's Trade Union Disputes Act 1927—since repealed.
- Establishment of statutory Public Utilities Boards to control ALL public services.
- Promotion of local industries.
- Statutory protection of Bermudian workers against imported labour.

Possibilities exist for the development of real civic improvements, but it will need considered and firm leadership in close association with the overall Caribbean movement, marching on to nationhood.

GUIANA CONSTITUTION

The new Constitution announced for Guiana allows for a single chamber Legislative Council of 24 seats—12 elected, 8 nominated and 4 officials. The Executive will comprise 5 elected, 4 officials, 1 nominated and the Governor. Dr. Jagan has commented that this is even worse than the one preceding the Waddington Constitution.

PORT OF SPAIN

THE Trinidad Government have steeped themselves in the morass of their anti-popular actions by introducing an undesirable and fascist bill called the "Undesirable Publications Bill."

In doing so, the Government have crowned the anti-civil rights campaign they commenced in 1950 when by the Powers and Privileges Ordinance they deprived the people of Trinidad and Tobago of their unique right to attend meetings of the Legislative Council, a right which they had vindicated with their blood at the Water Riots in 1903.

Summarising Clause 3 of the Bill, the Governor in Council would have the power to prohibit the importation of publications by merely naming persons or associations which publish them, without having to name the specific title, date, etc.

The Order provides for banning of publications, even those without titles, also any engraving or die, continued on page 5

Police Trickery in St. Vincent

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent.—This sugar and arrow-root isle has recently seen one of its greatest demonstrations of working class solidarity, when 1,100 sugar workers came out on strike over wages and for the publication of the report of the Commission of Enquiry on conditions in the industry.

Several other sections came out, including print workers, dockers and refuse collectors.

In face of this undaunted spirit, the Government and Police tried every trick to provoke the strikers into violent action, and then use it as the excuse for mass arrests and emergency rule.

Under the able leadership of their union and its President, Hon. E. T. Joshua, the workers maintained their calm and resolute stand, avoiding all provocation.

The Superintendent of Police forced his way to Union headquarters to arrest Mr. Joshua, but the people kept firm and ordered him away from private property.

Police and troops turned up fully armed. They arrested 61 pickets and strikers, and without an emergency being proclaimed, these men were charged with unlawful assembly and kept in isolated cells incommunicado without trial and without bail.

Under police protection the estate owners armed their watchmen with guns and sent them to the nearby villages to shoot the peasants' animals in order to kindle unrest in the area.

The estates supplied the police with meat, milk and other food and the Administrator used all his powers to incite the people to public disorder.

A Bill passed on 28th March requires 24 hours notice before permission can be given for holding a public meeting. The Union has not been given such permission, however.

In a mass demonstration on 18th March the workers made biting criticisms of the high-handedness of the local administration appointed by the British Government, and in a resolution demanded:—

"We the working class demand a proper system of education for our children and also a system of land distribution for our overcrowded towns and villages which are gone in total disrepair for the last two decades."

★ EDITORIAL ★ National Insult

FOR political sleight-of-hand the British Government takes a lot of beating. Two months after they plotted at the latest Federation Conference in London (February, 1956) they published their Report in an air of such peaceful calm, that leads one to suspect their FEAR of PUBLIC OPINION.

After the 16 West Indian delegates had met for sixteen days within the palatial Lancaster House they arrived at only one satisfactory conclusion—Federation Day is FEBRUARY 23rd. To think that sixteen elected representatives could stomach signing this document, with only a single positive progressive step, will take more believing than the average West Indian can summon. There are other repercussions too.

Look at the latest Guiana constitutional proposals handed down on April 25th. If the Federal phonies who sat in London had put up a real fight in February, would Lennox-Boyd have had the cheek to decree for Guiana, 12 elected seats only in the legislature in comparison with 8 nominees and 4 officials with the Governor as boss?

Tame subservience

The basis for the Colonial Office attempting this unforgivable liberty was clearly set out in paragraph 40 (JUDICIAL MATTERS) when our representatives agreed to understand that in places where,

"we have used the phrase AFTER CONSULTATION WITH the Governor-General, having undertaken that consultation, (HE) is thereafter free to act in his discretion."

What claim can West Indians make to responsible government when our approval is set down to such subservience to a foreign ruler?

Worse was yet to come. The sixteen representatives from 10 island territories also agreed to widen, yes to expand the RESERVED POWERS of the Governor-General:—

"to make general the power of the Governor-General to reserve Bills instead of specifying the particular categories of Bills in respect of which the power might be exercised." (Paragraph 16 A.)

These are major betrayals of every West Indian aspiration. Any wonder every report from Guiana is that every political group catering for nationalism has received the latest award with fierce resentment. Every visitor to the Legco remained seated in defiance when the strains of God Save the Queen heralded Sir Patrick Renison's message from London to Guiana.

Some people would laugh it off as an incredible farce. It is far worse than that, it is a national insult. We must be up and doing, PROTEST, PROTEST, PROTEST.

Callous Treatment

THE callousness with which British imperialism conducts its relations in the West Indies seems to know no bounds.

From time to time this newspaper has to draw into the light of day the excesses which pass for "good government" "law and order".

In dealing with the working class and ordinary people of the West Indies, law and order happens to find itself always ranged in support of the bosses and employers against the people.

Once again the workers of St. Vincent (pop. 70,000) have been made the victims of such "law and order".

The Administration came down heavily and openly in support of the moneyed interests against the workers, as our correspondent writes, not hesitating to use every form of intimidation and provocation.

Now and then, to appear democratic, the British Government says it wishes to encourage "healthy trade unionism". No sooner however than a healthy trade union uses its power in defence of its elementary rights, that we see the true worth of such sentiments.

The fact that such unlimited force is available and is used in St. Vincent and other parts of the West Indies is not generally known to British workers.

Nor do they know of all the other denials of elementary civil liberties which our people have to endure, such as bans on what we read, holding of meetings, etc.

The Trinidad Bill which would make sweeping attacks on all types of literature, as described by John La Rose in this issue, should not be allowed to go by default.

Every opportunity should be used to draw attention to, and to protest against both these issues in St. Vincent and Trinidad. They concern our vital interests.

Letters to M.P.s, to the Governors concerned, and to the Colonial Secretary would be striking blows in defence of freedom.

'I Was Deported Because I Fought Colour Bar' — CLAUDIA

Why were you deported from the United States Miss Jones?

I WAS a victim of the McCarthyite hysteria against independent political ideas in the U.S.A.—a hysteria which penalizes anyone who holds ideas contrary to the official pro-war, pro-reactionary, pro-fascist line of the white ruling class of that country.

I was deported from the U.S.A. because as a Negro woman Communist of West Indian descent, I was a thorn in their side in my opposition to Jim Crow racist discrimination against 16 million Negro Americans in the United States, in my work for redress of these grievances, for unity of Negro and white workers, for women's rights and my general political activity urging the American people to help by their struggles to change the present foreign and domestic policy of the United States.

I was deported and refused an opportunity to complete my American citizenship because I fought for peace, against the huge arms budget which funds should be directed to improving the social needs of the people.



Claudia Jones

West Indians and Unemployment

REDUNDANCY is news in Britain today. Hardly a day goes by but the newspapers publish details of another group of workers who have been fired, or are on short time.

And this is only the beginning. If the Tories have their way, redundancy must spread to the distributive trades, and throughout heavy, medium and light industries.

The Tories make no secret of their desire to create a pool of unemployed.

The Economist, organ of big business, has called editorially for such policies as would lead to the creation of a pool of unemployed. Several other news papers have done the same. And so have many of the Tory leaders.

Creating fear

The aim of the Tories is to depress wages, and to force the workers to work harder. They reason that when the workers go in fear of their jobs, they would become more amenable to wage cuts, and to drives to raise productivity.

Naturally, mass redundancy would affect the peoples from the Caribbean domiciled in Britain, as much as any one else. In fact, because of the general prejudice against foreigners and non Europeans, mass redundancy would probably strike them harder than any other group.

Workers from the Caribbean are already affected by the sackings that have taken place during the last few weeks.

The Tory decision to create a pool of unemployed is a direct result of their foolish and irresponsible

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Trinidad-born Claudia Jones has lived in the United States since she was eight years old, but was imprisoned and finally deported last year.

In this interview, Miss Jones answers some questions put to her by our reporter, GEORGE BOWLIN.

I was deported because I urged prosecution of the lynchers rather than prosecution of Communists and other democratic Americans who oppose the lynchers and big financiers and war mongers the real advocates of force and violence in the U.S.A.

RACIST BIAS

Is there any special significance to the fact that you are a West Indian and, as such were deported from the United States?

Yes, I definitely think so. The very law under which I was deported, the reactionary Walter-McCarran law widely known for its special racist bias towards West Indians and peoples of Asiatic descent. This law, which came into being as a result of the whole reactionary drive against progressive ideas in the United States, encourages immigration of fascist scum from Europe but restricts West Indian immigration, once in their thousands annually to the United States, to 100 persons per year, from all the Caribbean islands.

This works special hardship among West Indians who have family ties and who are permanent residents and citizens of the U.S.A.

You are a Communist, are you not Miss Jones? Would you tell us what led you to become a Communist?

Gladly. From an early age, like most native Negro Americans and with the additional penalty of being foreign born and a Negro in the United States, I experienced the indignity of second-class citizenship in the U.S. My parents emigrated from the West Indies in 1924 in the hope of finding greater economic opportunity and freedom to rear their children. But what we found instead in the U.S. was not only economic poverty for the working class, but the special brand of American racism—Jim Crow.

NO ESCAPE

In the U.S.A. no matter what the social class status, no Negro escapes the scourge of Jim Crow.

I learned that those who fought most consistently for the interests of the workers, for their trade union organization and social needs were the Communists.

My daily experiences as a Negro youth in the U.S.A. led me to search out political forces that were doing something about these things; political forces who not only fought on a day to day basis to alleviate these conditions but who had a perspective as to a radical solution of these conditions.

I learned through study and participation in the Communist movement that the Communist Party, based on its political science, the science of Marxism-Leninism, that these conditions were man-made and therefore could be changed by mankind through understanding of their origin and to eliminate these practices and conditions.

DANGEROUS IDEAS

So that it is as a result of these struggles that you WERE indicted, convicted, and jailed in the United States?

Yes, for these struggles, I was indicted, convicted, and served a year and a day sentence despite a heart condition and related illnesses, under the infamous Smith Act—a reactionary statute under which progressive fighters are convicted and jailed not for committing any overt act, but merely for their ideas. Did you ever meet West Indians in the U.S. Could you tell us something about their conditions?

Yes. There are over 100,000 West Indians in New York City alone. The West Indian community in the States plays an active political, economic and social role in the life of the nation, and particularly lends its strength to advancing the struggles of the Negro people in the U.S.A. for full equality and freedom. Numerous West Indians are among the most active trade unionists in industry.

Then there are numerous West Indian professionals associated with various political and social welfare organizations in the community. As a whole West Indians in the U.S.A. constantly express concern and

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Is there a West Indian Culture?

by T. Aton

WE publish in this issue an article on culture which deserves careful attention. It represents a point of view; and a point of view which is not often put forward. For that reason alone it is deserving of our serious consideration.

Now that we are entering a new phase in the histories of the peoples of the British-controlled Caribbean, proper critical discussion of such subjects is of the utmost importance. Only such discussion could guarantee that we will commit the minimum of mistakes and ensure the prompt correction of these mistakes.

Signed articles on this page represent the point of view of the writer and not necessarily the point of view of the Editorial Board. It is the policy of the Editorial Board to solicit a wide range of views, a range representing practically all the leading trends in politics and cultural matters in the British Caribbean. The point of view of the Editorial Board is expressed in the editorial.

Letters, and suggestions for future articles will be gratefully received.

SINCE the war there has been a resurgence of interest in matters cultural in the British-controlled Caribbean. And, the writers, the artists and the critics, all have had their say on the basic questions of culture, its role, its development, its sources, and its motivating factors.

We have been told that we possess a West Indian Culture. We have been told, often by the same gentlemen, that we are working towards a West Indian culture.

We have been told, that a West Indian culture is not only feasible; but is the only "hope for our people."

We have been told that as we work towards West Indian nationhood, so we must throw up a culture responsive towards that nationhood. And that culture we are assured, is rooted in the main in negro slavery, in the contributions of India, and somewhat in the contributions of the British.

Finally, as the crowning argument in favour of their ideas, we are invited to see in the similarity of the cultures of the various peoples of the so-called British Caribbean, the proof that there is one West Indian culture, strong, single, indivisible.

Those who differ from this view-point, are described as "insular"; it is said that they are unable to see further than their own islands, and that they are trying to get away from our slave background.

"What have we got to be ashamed of in slavery?" ask certain of these people.

And, answering their own question.
"We were slaves yesterday. True. But today they can't treat us as slaves any longer."

How superficial can we get

This whole line of thought is shallow and superficial.

In the first place, there is no such thing as a West Indian nation. That concept is pure nonsense—and the sooner that our glib young men get rid of it the better for all concerned.

The West Indies is a geographical concept. The term "West Indian" has no connotation of race, colour or nationality.

"West Indian" is a term, which like the term "European," is loose, vague and rather inexact. A man is a Jamaican from the West Indies, not a "West Indian" from Jamaica.

It is ridiculous to describe islands separated by vast stretches of water, in some cases hundreds of miles, in other cases over a thousand miles, as one nation.

Equally, how could these countries be working towards one nation?

A nation must have a unity of territory and economic life. Do Jamaicans and Barbadians share common territory or a common economic life?

If these people share a common nationhood, by the same token all the Europeans share a common nationhood; and so do the English and the New Zealanders.

So, there could be no question of a West Indies culture responsive to, or reflecting a West Indian nationhood.

Confusion upon Confusion

In the second place, what these teachers of ours forget, is, that cultures everywhere bear the stamp of their environment.

The general pattern may be the same, but it does not follow that the culture is similar; and that we can talk correctly, of having the same culture.

The French and the British are alike in the general pattern. Both cultures belong to what is commonly called "modern culture".

French novels bear a strong resemblance to British novels. They are concerned with the same basic prob-

lems. The French concern themselves with the same eternal triangle. And so on.

But French culture is still undeniably French, in form, and in secondary content. And so with British culture. Both peoples have different cultures within the same stream of capitalist twentieth century culture.

Looking beneath the surface—and if our bright young men could tear themselves away from their "serious" books and their pretty womenfolk they would see the point too—it is easy to find the differences in the respective cultures of the people of the British-controlled Caribbean.

The Barbadian, thrifty, careful and reliable, puts his stamp on all his national institutions. It has taken the Barbadian to build the most efficient educational system in the British-controlled Caribbean.

The Trinidadian, volatile, talkative, and often irritatingly frivolous, has built the carnival into a national institution.



It is impossible to think of the imposing masters of Codrington College, doing the "leggo" on a Carnival Tuesday evening. Or of a respected Trade Union leader of Bridgetown, winning a prize for the best portrayal of "Ole Mas!"

But, it is not unknown in Trinidad for a master at Queen's Royal College to "jump up" in a band on Marine Square. And everyone in Trinidad knows of how, one of the more respected of their Trade Union leaders, a City Father, and a middle-aged man to boot, recently won a prize for an "Ole Mas".

Of course, it is perfectly true that Barbadian novels like novels by Jamaicans and Trinidadians are concerned largely with problems of poverty and colour, and a revolt against the things that be.

So what?

The bulk of post-war Indian and Middle East literature, are concerned precisely with those problems.

The similarity in the cultures of the Jamaican, the Barbadian and the Trinidadian, is no more proof of their common West Indian culture, than is our fondness for rice, proof that we share a common culture with the Burmese and the people of Soviet Armenia.

Truth about slavery

In the third place, it is false and dangerous to overrate the contributions of three of the main sources to the cultures of the West Indian nations. Obviously, the cultures of today have some of their roots in slavery; in Africa, and in Britain, and in India. But, and this is the salient point, overlooked practically all the time—and you bright young men take notice—the fact is, that this contribution is no vaster, and no more important, than similar contributions made elsewhere to other cultures.

Culture does not develop in a hothouse. It is a creature of the fields, responsive to the interplay of other cultures, basing itself on other cultures, and in turn giving a dynamic to other cultures.

Rome had Greece to thank. Greece based herself on Egypt. And Egypt of the Pharaohs ought to have paid a vote of thanks to the scores of nameless civilizations which gave their little to her pomp and majesty.

And the British, or at any rate most of them, were serfs a short while ago. And there was slavery in Scotland at the turn of the nineteenth century.

But do the British go round telling the world that they are descended from serfs, and that they have the Egyptians to thank for their enormous contributions to agriculture?

It is not therefore, a question of being ashamed of slavery. Shame is an emotion which has no place in sober reasoning or in a movement of the working class.

The fact is, that this over-emphasis on India, Africa, and Britain, weakens morale, gives a hand to the anti-national forces, and plays straight into the hands of the extreme reactionaries, the imperialists and the racists alike.

To sum up. Each nation in the British-controlled Caribbean has its own culture. And each culture bears a strong resemblance to the other.

That, is both understandable and desirable.

There is no justification for the use of the term "West Indian culture" today. And, even if tomorrow such a term could be used with some justification, it remains true to add, that such a term would be loose and general, lacking the precision that is so necessary in matters of this nature.

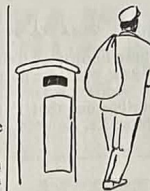
The confusion which the term "European culture" engenders ought to be a sharp warning to us.

As for the critics who attack us for our "insularity" we pause long enough to point out that they have themselves revealed their own insularity in no uncertain fashion.

They speak of a "West Indian culture". But by "West Indian" they mean purely British West Indian.

They see no further than they have been trained to look by the British educationalists.

Need we say more.



POST-BOX

Readers slam critic

The Editor,

Whilst glad to see your paper reviewing books dealing with the Caribbean area, I was shocked by the violence and rancour of "L" in reviewing "A Brighter Sun" by Sam Selvon.

It stimulated me to read the book since I felt the review could scarcely be a fair judgement of any book. Indeed, I found the review bore little relation to the novel which to quote "L" (out of context) is "... fascinating material ... a highly readable, honest and entertaining piece of work."

The style of the novel may have its faults—like any first attempt, but to say it lacks form is irrelevant—it is not a detective story. Most of the characters seem to be realistically drawn, with warm sympathy for Tiger's struggles to better his life and interracial friendship winning through, but with no false sentimentalism.

If in a richer country, here, the Yankees are popular for their cash, then certainly it is no surprise to find it so in Trinidad—as the Lord Invader's popular calypso "Rum and Coca-Cola" describes.

Finally, it would be better editorial practice to name the writer of such a vitriolic review.

Wishing you every success in continuing to maintain and improve still further the good work of your paper.

(Miss) Ruth Nixon,
A London Student.



The Editor,

I am appalled by the review by "L" of Selvon's, "A Brighter Sun." Since the paper aims to represent the broad W.I. movement, and to encourage W.I. arts, it is horrifying to find such an ignorant, biased, and sectarian attack on a young W.I. author.

"A Brighter Sun" is not a great novel, but it is certainly honest and has much merit besides. Before discussing the merits let me examine the main criticisms of "L". He is annoyed because the hero is shown as a social climber. But thousands of this type exist. They are a product of capitalist society. "Boy" and "chief" were the common terms used for workers and their U.S. bosses respectively. Must we deny this? Selvon does not use the word "native" in a derogatory manner but purely to distinguish local from foreign. Why object?

"L" is surprised that the women were anxious to go to bed with the Yanks. Either he does not know Trinidad or he is an ostrich, for there were brothels, semi-brothels, and "enthusiastic amateurs" stretching all the way from Sangre Grande to Chagaramus. It was one of the curses of the Yankee invasion. Foreign troops carry that curse wherever they go and Trinidadians are no paragons of virtue to have resisted. Moreover Selvon makes no play of it, but merely remarks, in passing, that some women indulged.

Now for the merits. On p. 191 an American advises Tiger to "interest yourself in how you are governed." This develops into the realisation that with careerists in the legislature, government is not in the interest of the people, and the idea of self-government is seen. The overriding lesson is unity. Tiger's parents reprimand him for having Negro friends, a very common attitude among older Indians, but later Tiger says the struggle is for "everybody's rights not only Indians." This progressive view has come through hard experience.

The night Urmilla was ill Indian and Negro doctors refused to attend her but a European came from a long way off. This shows that class is as great an enemy as racial prejudice, and not all Europeans in our homeland are callous, or are Imperialists.

The novel is not "a slanderous attack on our peasantry, our women folk, and our progressive movement and elected institutions," as "L" says, but an honest spotlighting of difficulties. Moreover we have no peasantry in the accepted sense, but a host of virtual share-croppers. What elected institutions and progressive movements of note had we in this period? If we had, why have we mounting unemployment and a rising cost of living? Why waste time fighting Colonial Office for what we "already have"? This unassuming little novel is well worth reading. There is much progressive thought in it.

YUSSUF HOSEIN.

TRINIDAD PLANTER WARNS U.S.

MR. NEAL FAHEY, one of the best known of Trinidad planters, and a man who has contributed scores of articles to the national press, has written a particularly interesting article for the Port of Spain Gazette of April 8th.

He begins his article by pointing out that Port of Spain is short of adequate space for cold storage plant on the wharf. Getting adequate space, he argues would mean encroaching on existing rights and facilities.

SELF-GOVERNMENT SAYS ANTIGUA

A new newspaper, the Anvil made its appearance in Antigua on April 18th. It is a four page paper, the third in the country and claims to be the journal of the Antigua National Party.

In a policy statement published in the first issue, the ANP asserts that it stands for Self Government for Antigua in a Federated West Indies with a responsible Government. It also wants Antigua to be the Capital of such a Federation.

Duty Preference for Jamaica Bananas

JAMAICA Bananas entering the United Kingdom, now enjoy an Import duty preference, three times as great as that which has been in force before World War II.

This is the result of action taken under the waiver, which the British Government secured last year, at the General Agreement of Trade and Tariffs (GATT), at Geneva.

The waiver gives the British Government the right to increase preferences in favour of economically backward colonies.

This means that bananas from non-Commonwealth sources, which hitherto have been paying an important cess of £2.10 per ton, on entry to the U.K. now pay £7.10 per ton. While bananas from the commonwealth countries pay no duty at all.

This move is sure to give a fillip to banana imports from Jamaica, and other banana producing areas within the sphere of British Imperialism. It would be welcome by the big Jamaican planters who have been clamouring for such a move.

TRINIDAD HOUSING A Solution?

A TRINIDAD Housing Policy Committee appointed in April, 1953 has decided, according to a report published recently, to recommend to Government that they help the workers and middle class people to buy their houses on the hire-purchase.

Government would finance the purchase of the houses; and the workers would repay the loan, and pay also a nominal rate of interest.

The committee did not make their recommendations out of the love for the homeless and the poorly housed. It is the result of the long struggle of the masses for better housing conditions.

Moreover, the Housing Policy Committee has not provided an answer to an important question—how are the unemployed and the poorly paid workers, the overwhelming majority of the population, to pay for their own houses—even on the hire-purchase.

GUIANA RULERS RESORT TO PAWNBROKING

ON Monday, 9th April, investors in London were offered a £3,540,000 worth of stock at a bargain price of £3,416,000, by Sir Patrick Renison, Governor of British Guiana.

To bolster his offer, Governor Renison commits the people of British Guiana to repay this loan between 1980 and 1985, at a five per cent (£177,000) interest on Stock. A tidy interest rate indeed.

The British Government has already secured £540,000 worth of stock. The remaining £3,000,000 has been thrown open to private investors.

Investors however, did not respond as readily

WHITEHALL OFFERS

IN an attempt to exploit the present political situation in British Guiana, the Tory Government is offering the Guianese people a new constitution.

The constitution provides for four officials, eight nominated, and twelve elected members.

The Tory Government is obviously guided by

And that means that the Trinidad Government would have to get back into its possession, the "western position of our wharf area" which was leased for 99 years to the United States in 1940.

The leasing of the wharf area for such a long term he pointed out, "was a flagrant breach of democratic principle."

Finally, says Mr. Fahey, through our lack of adequate storage facilities, we are unable and would be unable for decades to "take full advantage of our geographical advantages."

Mr. Fahey ends, by advising the USA to make concessions in this matter. Otherwise, "the general feeling is that such (concessions) are only granted to nations or races in a position to make themselves a danger or nuisance if not granted."

For the benefit of our readers, the Churchill Government leased several bases in the West Indies to the United States Government in 1940, in return for 100 overage destroyers.

The West Indian peoples had no say in the matter. Mr. Fahey's article refers to an area of the Port of Spain wharf that was contained in the lease.

BARBADIAN WORKERS

The British Transport Commission has been busy employing Barbadians in its undertakings. During March and April its officials have been to Barbados selecting suitable candidates for posts as ticket collectors, shunters, porters, minor clerical and other duties.

We understand that most of them have already assumed their duties.

The C.L.C. (London Branch) extends a welcome greeting to these people, and looks forward to them taking an active part in the lives of their respective Trade Unions.

BRITISH CLERICAL WORKERS WELCOME WEST INDIANS

DURING Easter 1956, the 298 delegates to the 64th Annual Conference of the Clerical and Administrative Workers Union, held at Scarborough, unanimously resolved that:

NCCL TO FIGHT FASCIST MEASURES

THE National Council of Civil Liberties took yet another bold step forward for the peoples of the British Controlled Caribbean, at its annual meeting in London on Saturday, 12th May, 1956.

It passed two resolutions which are a condemnation of British colonial rule.

One condemns outright the latest piece of fascist legislation now being introduced in Trinidad in the form of a bill to restrict still further the freedom of expression, and the freedom of thought of Trinidadians and Tobagonians. (See John LaRose's art.)

The other demands that the Tory Government ends its state of siege in Guiana, by restoring the withdrawn constitution, and reinstating the people's elected representatives.

The National Council of Civil Liberties would be taking up these matters at the highest level possible, the United Nations included.

NEWS IN BRIEF

SPEAKING to the Annual meeting of the Association of Medical Geographers in Montreal early last month, Dr. David Lowenthal of Vassar College, New York, said that even with greatly increased birth control the population of Barbados would reach a density of 1,900 persons per square mile in 1986.

With the present density of 1,400, it was the most tightly packed place in the Western hemisphere.

Hurricane Janet Relief Fund has passed the \$500,000 (BWI) mark. The Fund, raised in Trinidad, includes donations from Jamaica and other Islands in the British West Indies.

In a proposed allocation, Grenada is to receive 62½%, Barbados 27½% and British Honduras 10%.

★

JAMAICA now has a ninth Minister. Mr. William McKenzie Seivright, a St. Andrews baker has been appointed a minister, in accordance with the constitutional changes made last year. He takes over the job of Minister of Agriculture and Lands from Chief Minister Manley, who has now gone on to new fields; the portfolio of Minister of Development.

★

TRINIDAD trade unionists and sections of the public protested strongly to Government against the inclusion of Mr. Oli Mohamed on a Trinidad delegation to the Conference of Free Trade Unions in Geneva.

Mr. Mohamed, they claim, is a part time trade union official and should be dropped in preference to a full time official. He is a municipal employee of the San Fernando Borough Council, and in his spare time he is secretary of both the All Trinidad Sugar Estates and Factories Union, and the Municipal Workers Union.

We understand however, these protests went unheeded. Mr. Mohamed has gone to Geneva.

Other members of the delegation were Mr. Albert Gomes, Minister of Trade, Commerce and Labour, and Mr. John Rojas, President General of the Oil Field Workers Trade Union.

"this conference reaffirms its belief in the principle that eligibility should depend upon the suitability of persons for available posts, and that there should be no disqualification on the grounds of race or colour."

"Having regard to this declaration we welcome the employment in the clerical profession of immigrants from the WEST INDIES and other countries on the same basis and conditions as existing employees."

Delegates to this conference came from all parts of the United Kingdom, and they represented the clerical workers employed in general office duties, and in more specialised clerical activities.

The clerical workers employed in Engineering, mining, accounting and broadcasting were well represented.

Strike Breaking, Mr. Manley?

KINGSTON, Jamaica. Mr. Norman Manley, Chief Minister of Jamaica, has declared a State of Emergency, and called in the troops to unload a ship in Kingston port.

The dockers have been striking for higher wages.

Fete Match Spirit

from page 6

August or September, with another next February, prior to selection. Some intensive coaching in the two weak departments may pay off.

Our seventeen for next year reads:—Goddard (capt.), Worrell (vice-capt.), Weekes, Walcott, Atkinson, Valentine, Smith, Sobers, Ramadhin, Dewdney, Depeiza, Hunte, Reid, Kanhai or Pairsaudau, Roberts or Williams, Oliver, and another fast bowler.

Talk of a W.I. cricket team provokes other thoughts. Jamaica is to bring their rules into agreement with the Trinidad F.A., hence a W.I. Football XI? And why not a united Olympic team? These questions will be dealt with in later issues. Any ideas, readers?

Caribbean Labour Congress London Branch

Annual General Meeting

"Should a Coloured Man Share Equal Rights?"

All Invited

HOLBORN HALL, Grays Inn Road, W.C.1
SUNDAY, JULY 1st.

2 p.m.

Jamaica Poll

from page 1

struggle, has now reached its zenith, a point where the Jamaica Labour Party found itself in 1946. PNP must now either go left or further right. It must descend as the JLP has done, or revolutionise its Policy as a whole.

On the surface, this election is a vote of confidence for the PNP, but it must be remembered that over 60 per cent of the electorate stayed away from the polls. Was it a protest against the immature election promises of the PNP in 1954/5 and the refusal or inability of this 13 month-old Government to challenge the bitter question of unemployment which is the greatest menace in our country?

The Chief Minister said: "Unemployment is an historical legacy and will last as long as life lasts."

Now all the stumbling blocks have been removed, so can the people expect to see the 17 years of theorising now moulded into practical progressive work?

The Choice

The Peoples Freedom Movement contested 6 Divisions but failed to return any candidate. Those in the Corporate Area lost their deposits while the two country candidates saved theirs, one losing to the JLP by 61 votes.

As in the General Election last year, the fight centred around the two major parties. The people had to choose between completing the process of wiping out the Labour Party or allowing it to continue to be a force in the country.

Defeat of the Bustamante Labour Party will now bring the burning questions of work, unemployment pay, more houses, reduction in cost of living, and a more militant fight against imperialism, into the forefront again and create the conditions for the Peoples Freedom Movement to replace the corrupt and backward Labour Party as a real opposition to the Right-wing controlled PNP.

RESULTS

	PNP	JLP	Ind
Kingston & St. Andrew Corporation ...	19	6	
St. Thomas	10	7	0
Portland	9	5	1
St. Mary	10	3	1
St. Ann	14	3	4
Trelawny	9	9	0
St. James	13	1	2
Hanover	3	4	5
Westmoreland	10	4	4
St. Elizabeth	7	6	6
Clarendon	7	14	0
Manchester	16	1	1
St. Catherine	14	7	0

Total: PNP 141, JLP 68, Ind. 25, Farmer 1.

CLAUDIA JONES

from page 2

support for the liberation struggles of the people in the West Indies, for freedom from colonial exploitation and slavery, for dignity and self-government.

Would you say something about your view of the role of the women in the West Indies?

I have been quite impressed with the activities of the women of the West Indies and their growing participation in the liberation movement as well as the international movement for peace, security and the rights of children. There is no question but that West Indian women represent an indispensable ally in the fight for colonial freedom, because women are triply exploited in the colonies, as women, as mothers and as colonials, subjected to indignities and great suffering because of the status of their countries.

Participation of increasing numbers of West Indian women side by side with their men in struggle for national independence and self-government will grow because women above all, want a better life, dignity and equality and a better world in which their children will live.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

Yes, I would like to thank West Indians in the Caribbean, in Britain and America, as well as all other democratic and progressive forces who interceded in my behalf while jailed for my ideas in an American prison.

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NAT COLE INCIDENT — INDIGNATION

by Eric Deslandes

THIS is a tale of two cities. Part 1, begins in Moscow where members of the all-coloured cast of Porgy and Bess have been receiving warm hospitality everywhere they have appeared in the Soviet Republic.

According to reports in the Russian press their performances have been rated as, "highly entertaining". Everywhere the cast appeared they were greeted with handshakes and smiles, and a courting couple in the troupe took time off from work to get married in the Big City.

Episode 2

After recovering from an assault by two white men when he appeared at Birmingham, Alabama, U.S.A., with Ted Heath's band, world famous Negro crooner Nat King Cole has declared that he will not appear in the South anymore.

Perhaps the "unkindest cut of all" in this most humiliating experience for the popular crooner is the

Trinidad Bill

from page 1

deemed contrary to the public interest. This clause not only prohibits specific and future publications by persons or associations named, but also all previous publications by the same bodies, no matter what they might have been.

Penalty for violation of this section is either a fine of \$250 or twelve months imprisonment or both.

Other clauses in the Bill are equally obnoxious. Whereas in the past it was incumbent on the Governor to examine and form an opinion on a certain publication which according to "his opinion" he then deemed seditious, the present bill will dispense with all that formality.

For example, if he decided that publications of Victor Collanz, Watts, Lawrence & Wishart, Jehovah Witnesses, National Council of Labour Colleges, or God knows what, were "contrary to public interest", it matters not one whit whether it was Burns' poems, Shakespeare's plays or the Holy Bible which they published.

So long as these works were published by that "specified person or association of persons", they would be subject to the ban.

'Better wait'

The Acting Attorney General in moving the second reading of the Bill on March 16th, 1956, was lyrical in his denunciation of "obnoxious publications which might do harm to citizens", meaning primarily Communist publications.

But even the 'Guardian' editorial of 16/3/56 under the caption "Better Wait a Little" cautioned: "What we are uncertain about however, is the possibility of misuse to which the bill in its present form may be subject."

It may be invoked for instance to keep out publications of a particular religious denomination or book and magazines to which objections have been raised by a vocal puritanical minority.

Under the usual guise of attacking the Communists, what is sought is destruction of the few democratic rights which the people, especially the working class movement, still retain. As usual, the Marxists being in the vanguard, are made the scapegoats in order to drive a wedge between them and the popular masses, thereby to weaken the whole mass movement.

Joint action call

In the first instance the West Indian Independence Party protested to the Attorney General requesting withdrawal of the bill. The liberal weekly 'Clarion', closely associated with the Independent Labour Party, published the letter of appeal addressed to various political parties and trade unions by the WIIP, asking them to protect and calling for joint action.

The Legislature agreed on March 16th to postpone debate on the bill for a "reasonable time." All this is to the good so far, for it might give a popular mass movement against the bill time to develop.

Especially in the changed political situation created by the February 23rd Federation Agreement, the struggle for civil liberties, without which the West Indian labour movement will find itself fettered at every turn, should not be the concern only of the individual territory affected by these measures, but of the West Indian masses as a whole.

For that reason, the protest against this new move against civil liberties should be the responsibility of every political party, trade union, and welfare organisation worthy of the name.

fact that he was appearing in his home state. Apparently the local boy who made good became the "prophet without honour in his country."

ACT UNDER FIRE

The notorious MacCarren Act which is partly responsible for the limited number of West Indians now allowed to migrate to the U.S.A., has come under strong criticisms from the Labour Youth League.

This organisation has rallied support from other progressive movements and has declared that, "a crucial stage has been reached in the application of this act... What is involved is the future of traditional liberties guaranteed in the Constitution and Bill of Rights..."

They further called for intervention "in one or both of the following ways":—

1. Going on record for repeal of the Act and for halting its application.
2. That American citizens should file their opinion as an "Amicus Curiae—friend of the Court" with the Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

Apart from the immigration aspects, the Act also deals with Internal Security. It was under the "communist front" provisions of this Act that the Labour Youth League is charged, and whose case is now before the Federal District Court of Appeals.

Among the various groups that have taken a position on the McCarran Act are, the Baptist Student Fellowship, the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, eighteen student leaders at the University of Wisconsin, the 2nd U.S. Assembly of Youth sponsored by the Young Adult Council, and scores of others.

Unemployment

from page 2

policies in the field of trade and foreign affairs.

Britain has squandered her resources building up a large army to keep the colonial peoples in subjection. Wars, such as the war in Kenya against the Liberation movement, swallow up millions and millions of pounds. So too with the war in Malaya. And Cyprus.

Vast sums are being spent in developing the atom and hydrogen bombs.

In the field of trade, Britain has refused to develop wide trade relations with China, the U.S.S.R. and Eastern Europe.

Britain cannot solve her economic problems and at the same time wage aggressive wars against the peoples in the colonies who are fighting for their independence.

But, it is not enough to fight for full employment. It is necessary to relate that fight to the struggle for a change in Britain's foreign policy, Britain's relations with the colonies, and her trade policy.

And in fighting for a change it is imperative to link arms with everyone who is willing to go some of the way with us.

Influential People

There are scores and scores of influential people, Pastors, M.P.s. and so on, who are against the colour-bar in jobs, but who are not opposed to the development of the atom and H-bombs.

There are scores of influential people who want a change in British relations to the colonies, but who would not go along with the idea of a change in Britain's trade policy.

We must build a broad united front of men of goodwill.

We must activate on behalf of the Caribbean peoples domiciled in this country, such various personages as Dr. Fisher, Jennie Lee, Sydney Silverman, Victor Gollancz, Kingsley Martin, Gaitskill and Nye Bevan himself.

We must get the Labour Party active on this question. So too with the Fabian Bureau, Rita Hinden and all. We must solicit and accept the help of Tory M.P.s. and the Liberal and Communist parties.

Unemployment can and must be fought. And unemployment must be beaten.

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JAMAICA ATHLETES IN THE MAKING

FROM Jamaica's famous Calabar school, nursery of such W.I. greats as Arthur Wint and Herb McKinley, comes news of another great runner, Leroy Keene.

Only 18 years old, Keene seized the coveted inter-school 440 yards championship with a record 50.3 seconds, a time McKinley considers, according to a "Gleaner" report, better than either his or Wint's at that age. From the U.S.A. now the graduate school for W.I. athletes, come offers of no less than four scholarships.

By virtue of superior facilities and intensive coaching, U.S. universities have proved of immense value to our athletes. One has only to compare G. Rhoden's performance in the 1948 Olympics, with his record-breaking run in 1952, to realise the importance of that intervening training spell at Morgan State College. McKinley at Illinois, and Agostini at Villanova, are two others that come straight to mind.

But when, when are we going to make a positive effort to train and retain our athletes?

From the same inter-school games comes a most promising report of achievement in a field where we have not yet won our spurs—long jumping. Three jumpers have made showings, which experts like McKinley say, will put them in world class soon. To these young hopefuls the "Caribbean News" extends best wishes for the future.

Weight Lifters raise some problems

PREPARING for the July West Indian Championships, Trinidad weightlifting officials have decided to apply for international recognition so that records set locally may be listed as official. Three recognised officials must be present at every meeting, and plans are on foot to raise the number of such officials in Trinidad, from four to seven.

Rodney Wilkes and Len Kilgour, both Olympic medalists, have been doing well in local matches; Wilkes, Empire 132lb. champ, has bettered his own record with a snatch of 220½lb.

More Boxers

FOLLOWING in the footsteps of Yolande Pompey and Hector Constance, three Trinidad boxers have arrived in England, seeking fame and fortune. They are "Lucky" Jordan, one-time light heavyweight champion, Edward Bishop, who ruled the welterweights, and Ronald Rush, ex-lightweight champion.

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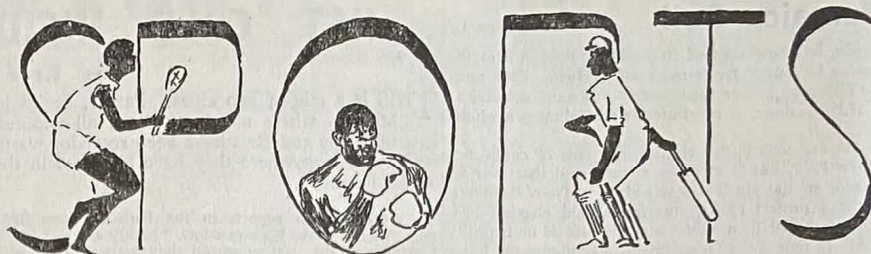
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Fete Match Spirit Won't Do For Test Cricket

FETE match cricket, with the emphasis on hard hitting, quick runs, and stumping out the corks in a case of rum behind long stop, is a common feature in the Caribbean, but this cavalier attitude will not do in the international field. Certainly Test cricket must be gay and attractive, after all it is a game, yet lightheartedness can be carried too far. It is with this warning that we appraise the lessons of the New Zealand tour, with the 1957 U.K. tour in mind.

Without detracting from N.Z.'s performance in the last Test—and we wish them further successes—it must be agreed, viewing the results in the previous Tests of the series, that we played neither with determination nor seriousness. Our scores were 145 and 77.

The other great lesson of the tour is that our full potential was never realised. Batting rested heavily on Weekes, supported by Goddard, and bowling on Ramadhin, Valentine and Atkinson, Smith and Sobers occasionally shining. Our fast bowlers and opening bats were generally ineffective, underlining our weakness in these two departments in recent years.

Team Building

With next year's tour in mind, team building is the immediate concern, with particular emphasis on opening bats and fast bowlers. Certainties in the touring party are, Worrell, Weekes, Walcott, Valentine, Smith, Sobers, and Atkinson. It is reported that Ramadhin may not come because of a back injury but we hope he is selected, and used in fewer games. Goddard, too, is a certainty if he agrees to make the tour.

Wicket-keepers there are many and we have to choose carefully. Binns and Legall clearly need a new mental approach to the game. More encouraging are Depeiza, Reid, of Dominica, and Kanhai of B.G. who

is reported to be a batsman as well. Our choice is Depeiza and Reid, with Kanhai, if he develops into a reliable batsman.

Of course, our biggest headaches are opening bats and fast bowlers. Roy Marshall, formerly of Barbados, is the answer to our opening bat problem if he is available, but there are difficulties. Having qualified for Hampshire, if he plays for the W.I., he'll have to spend another three years living in the county before representing them in the championship, and it is improbable that he would be willing to take that risk.

Hunte of Barbados has shown real promise, and is expected to be playing in England this season, gaining useful experience of English conditions, and strengthening his claim. No other opener appears on the scene. Fairaudeau is very unreliable, Rae has lost all touch, and Holt's form has deteriorated. It may prove worthwhile for Sobers and Goddard to concentrate on this role.

Fast Bowlers

Up to 1945 the W.I. had an array of top class fast bowlers, but today there are no Martindales, Constantines, nor Griffiths around, and the more the pity. Dewdney seems to be developing, and with more concentration, his fluent action may pay big dividends in the heavier atmosphere and grassy topped wickets here. King, on the other hand, is not successful, and does not stand up to physical strain.

Reports from Jamaica say that Gilchrist is faster than King, and if he acquires control, should be included. Another possible is Oliver of Trinidad, who, though not a genuine speed merchant, may be successful on green English wickets. We must aim at three fastmen who are wicket takers, and not in the team simply to take the shine off the ball before the spinners operate.

The medium pace department would be weaker through the absence of Gomez, so Atkinson and Goddard will have their work cut out, and this strengthens Oliver's claim. Worrell should bowl only occasionally, and Walcott even less, allowing both to concentrate on batting. The spinners are Valentine, Smith and Sobers, with Ramadhin, if he can be persuaded to make the trip. Roberts, of the Leeward Islands, gained experience during the N.Z. tour, and may do well in England.

Captaincy

The captaincy should be entrusted to Goddard, and the Board must prevail upon him to play. He is a great fighter, a great team leader and an allrounder of world stature. The second choice is Worrell, but he should not be taxed with captaincy. His batting genius might be impaired by the rigours of that task, and we will need the hundreds, and double centuries that flow so gracefully from his bat. Atkinson does not appear to get the best out of his men, nor is it clear that he is a cricket strategist. This makes it so much more important to induce Goddard to lead the team.

Our team would be strong, and may even be great. There is just enough time to bring on opening bats and fast bowlers, and the W.I. Cricket Board must get moving. A quadrangular tour should be arranged for

continued on page 4

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SPORTS FLASHES

D. Sime (U.S.A.), shattered H. Dillard's nine year old world record of 22.3 seconds for the 220 yards low hurdles, with a time of 22.2 secs., in N. Carolina. With 20.1, he also equalled Agostini's new mark for the 220 yards flat.

Mike Agostini (Trinidad), unofficially equalled the world record for the 100 yards sprint, with a time of 9.3 seconds, at Long Beach, California. Some weeks ago he clocked 20.1 secs., to set a new mark for both the 200 metres and 220 yards dash. At that same meeting he turned in 9.4 secs. for the 100 yards.

Thelma Hopkins of Belfast, clearing 5 feet 8½ inches, broke Chudina's (U.S.S.R.) high jump record for women. J. Bailey of Australia, beat fellow countryman Landy in a mile race in Los Angeles, with a time of 3 min. 58.6 secs. Landy was timed at 3 min. 58.7 secs. This is the first time 4 minutes has been beaten on a U.S. track, and it is Landy's fifth sub four minute mile, three times more than any other runner.

In the world Table Tennis championships, Japan won the men and women's singles, and the men's doubles titles, as well as the Swaythling Cup in the men's team event. Rumania won the women's doubles title, and the Corbillion Cup for the women's team event. The mixed doubles title went to U.S.A.

Weightlifting: Middleweight Bogdanovsky (U.S.S.R.) set a new world mark with a total lift of 909lb. Light heavyweight Lomakin (U.S.S.R.) equalled T. Kono (U.S.A.) world record at 964½lb. Kono set a new Press mark with 317½lb.

A. Viskari (Finland) won the Boston marathon in 2 hours 14 minutes 14 seconds, to lower J. Peters (G.B.) world's best time by nearly 3½ minutes. There is no official world record for this event.